

Community colleges announce small business resource series

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College will jointly host a series of online workshops in June and July for area employers who want to explore programs, services and grant-funded workforce training opportunities to boost their small businesses.

Each of the three, 45-minute remote sessions will meet from 9 to 9:45 a.m. and focus on a different government funding source: June 18 (Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund); June 25 (U.S. Small Business Administration); and July 2 (Registered Apprenticeships, a program of the U.S. Dept. of Labor). Session leaders will talk about program requirements, funding availability, and application processes.

The Small Business Resource Series is being offered by HCC and STCC through their Training and Workforce Options partnership – TWO.

“Covid-19 is having a powerful impact on the workforce and our economy,” said Sharon Grundel, director of corporate training for TWO. “To emerge stronger, businesses really need to start re-tooling how they operate now and that includes re-training their workforce to meet new workplace demands. Through TWO, HCC and STCC are at the crossroads of industry and education and perfectly positioned to assist.”

Advance registration is required for all sessions. To register, please go to:

hcc.edu/business-series

Log in information for each remote session will be supplied after registration is complete.

Part I: Workforce Training Fund, June 18, 9-9:45 a.m.: Workforce Training Fund outreach manager Kristen Rayne will provide an overview of grant programs.

Part II: Small Business Administration, June 25, 9-9:45 a.m.: Oreste Varela, branch manager for the SBA office in Springfield, will talk about SBA programs and services available to prospective and current entrepreneurs who need assistance starting or expanding their businesses.

Part III: Registered Apprenticeships, July 2, 9-9:45 a.m.: Melissa A. Scibelli, director of Workforce Development Programs for MassHire, Hampden County Workforce Board, will discuss the Registered Apprenticeship program, an innovative, work-based learning model for new hires and incumbent employees that provides funds to assist businesses in closing critical workforce gap shortages through on-the-job learning and related technical industry training.

For more information, please contact Tracye Whitfield, director of business development, at 413-221-4443/ twhitfield@twoworks.edu or Sharon Grundel, director of corporate training, at 413-552-2316/ sgrundel@twoworks.edu.